



Orange County Branch NAACP

PHYSICAL ADDRESS
3249 Old Winter Garden RD
Orlando, Florida 32805

MAILING ADDRESS
Post office Box 618285
Orlando, Florida 32861

Phone: (407) 445-2055
Fax: (407) 445-1223
Email: uit5120@naacpnet.org

www.orangecountybranchnaacp.org

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July 12, 2011

Hon. Julius Genachowski, Chairman
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Hon. Mignon Clyburn, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: AT&T – T-Mobile Merger, WT Docket No. 11-65

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

As African Americans, we have spent generations trying to achieve equality. We have been engaged in a struggle that has gone from the fields to the streets, and now to the Internet's digital arena.

This is why I support the AT&T/T-Mobile merger – as a means to a long overdue end of the digital divide.

Over the past several years, the number of African Americans adopting broadband has grown at a rate greater than that of non-minorities; however, there is still a large and noticeable gap. Today, as the world becomes less brick and mortar and propels itself into the digital era, we cannot afford to be a community of "have-nots" any longer.

Within the African American community, one of the greatest benefits of broadband adoption is through mobile services offered by carriers like AT&T and T-Mobile. As reports suggest, I fully expect this growth to continue if the prospective merger is approved.

While we may not be able to predict how many African Americans will gain broadband service following the merger, AT&T has promised 55 million more Americans will gain broadband access. With African Americans nearly 40 percent more likely to rely on their mobile devices, this promise bodes well for the African American community.

This is the opportunity of a lifetime – a chance to change the lives of millions of Americans for the better. With the anticipated service coverage that a

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consolidated AT&T and T-Mobile poses, we can gain equal footing in the education, healthcare and employment sectors. We will be connected to the rest of the world, and have the same opportunities to succeed as everyone else.

I hope that after careful consideration you will also support the AT&T/T-Mobile Merger. Now is the time to make a difference – this is the difference maker.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kran Riley".

Kran Riley,
President, Orange County Branch NAACP